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# MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

# CHARLES B. ANDREWS,

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT,

TO THE

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*January 7, 1880.*

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Printed by Order of the Legislature.

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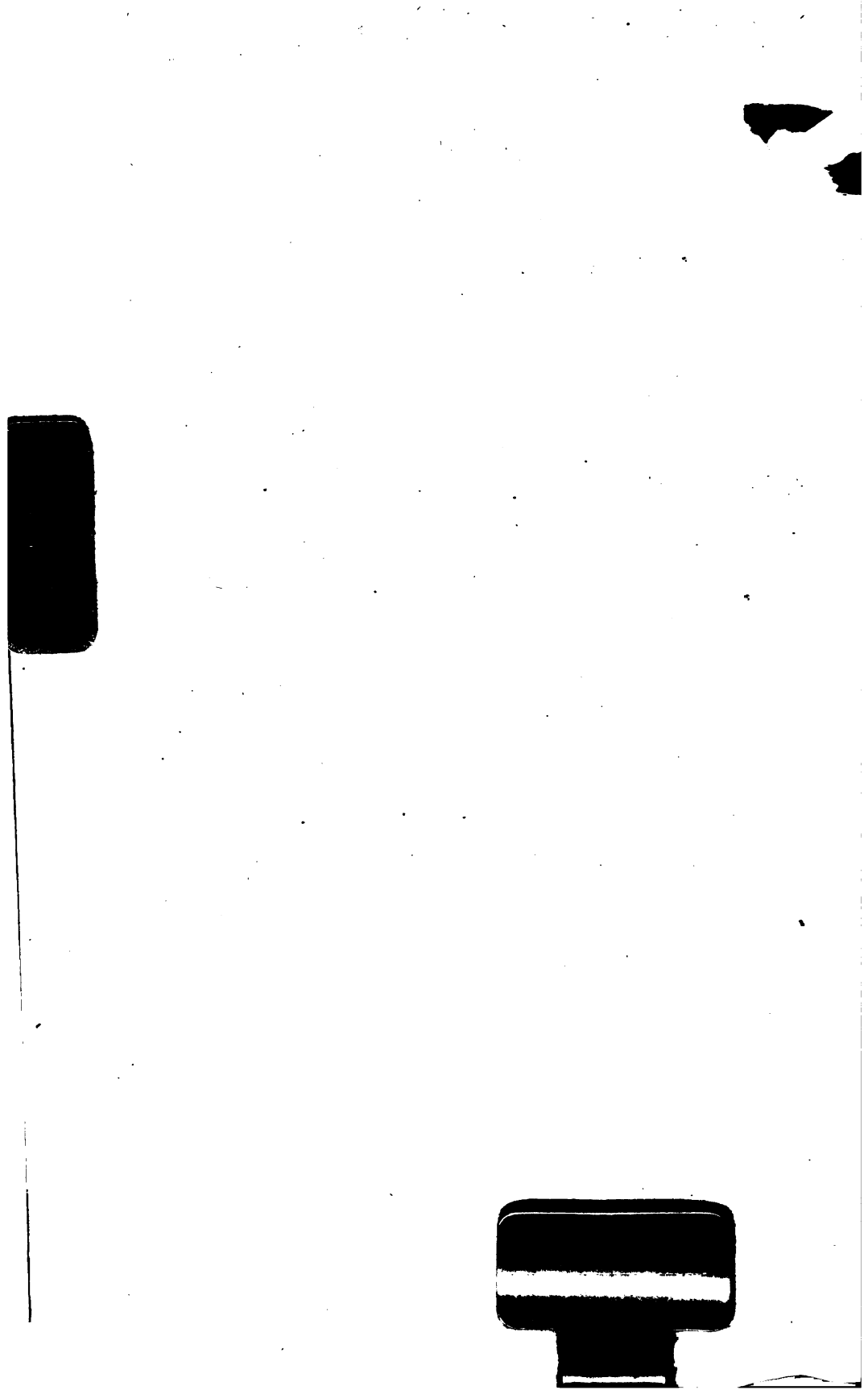
1880.



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27-1-09 H.E.W.

# MESSAGE.

*Gentlemen of the General Assembly:*

I welcome you to these halls of legislation. The people of the State have placed you in a position of high responsibility. It is no light thing to be invested with the supreme law-making power in a free State—to have in your keeping the prosperity, the weal or woe of a whole people. To such a duty every honest man must come with a reverent spirit, feeling his own ignorance and littleness, and seeking to be guided by a wisdom that is higher than himself.

I congratulate you that you meet at a time when the condition of all material affairs has so greatly improved. The year that has just closed behind us has cheered us with its generous gifts. The year upon which we are just entering is bright with continued promise. The restoration of specie payments is no longer a problem. Gold and paper have touched each other, and in all ordinary transactions are interchangeable as a measure of value. Stagnation in business has everywhere given way to enterprise: dullness has been succeeded by activity. Values have everywhere been enhanced. Labor is in greater demand, of a better quality, and at higher wages. Within our borders it has been a season of more than ordinary healthfulness. Food is plenty. The crops have been abundant. The teeming West groans under its burden of cereals. All the lines of transportation from the lakes to the sea are loaded to the full with bread grain, while thousands and tens of thousands of bushels await means of being forwarded to market. Manufactures have largely increased, and the price of manufactured goods is improved. The mineral resources of the country have been developed. New and diversified industries have been entered upon. Trade and the exchange of commodities has been steadily

growing, with an increasing balance in our favor. Progress has been made in the arts. The knowledge of witty inventions has been found out. Abundance is at hand ready to be laid at every door. Peace has clasped hands with prosperity.

Surely here is sufficient cause for congratulation and for thankfulness. Let us all take heed that no act of ours shall obscure the bright prospect opening before us.

### STATE DEBT.

The public debt of the State is the same as last year, and is represented by four classes of bonds, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| January 1, 1863, redeemable after twenty years, bearing 6 per cent. interest, | $877,000 |
| January 1, 1864, redeemable after twenty years, at 6 per cent. interest, | 1,318,550 |
| October 1, 1865, redeemable after twenty years, at 6 per cent. interest, | 1,741,100 |
| May 1, 1877, redeemable after ten years, at 5 per cent. interest, | 1,031,000 |
| Total, | $4,967,650 |

Interest is payable semi-annually on all.

### STATE FINANCES.

| | |
|---|---|
| The Treasury balance at the beginning of the year was | $842,372.11 |
| Income for the year, | 1,534,288.48 |
| Making a total of | $2,376,660.59 |
| The expenditures for the year, including the sum of $287,626.00 paid as interest on State bonds, was | 1,534,513.64 |
| Leaving a balance to credit of new year, | $842,146.95 |

A comparison of these figures with the Comptroller's report for last year shows that the total income for this year is $118,281.83 less than the preceding one. The total expenditures for the past year are also $8,098.89 less than the year before.

The falling off in the grand list of the State of more than ten millions of dollars, the reduction of the tax on savings

banks, and the abatement by the legislature of the tax of the Charter Oak Insurance Company and of certain railroads, accounts for the loss of income. The special expenses of the State have decreased. The amount expended for the State House and for grading the grounds is $114,750.00, in place of $331,500 last year. The special expense this year of about $85,000 for new uniforms for the National Guard, and the repaying of $26,058.39 to the National Banks for the tax on the stock of non-resident stockholders wrongfully collected, and the cost of furniture, etc., in the State House, to the amount of $79,574.40, makes up a large part of this difference. These expenditures will not again be necessary.

The ordinary expenses have been substantially the same as the preceding year, except in one particular. The judicial expenses have increased by more than $41,000. The Comptroller calls attention to this large increase, and in order to give emphasis to his words I repeat here substantially what he has said: "A very large increase will be found in the item of judicial expenses. Protracted trials, possibly unavoidable in the administration of justice, necessarily involve great expenditures, and one cannot fail to see an increasing tendency in that direction. In the session of 1879 an act was passed giving to witnesses in criminal trials ten cents per mile for travel to the place of trial *each day*. It is obvious that in some recent trials this must be an important item. It may possibly require examination."

This is a matter to which your attention can be usefully directed.

It will be observed that the total expenditures are $225.16 less than the total income for the year.

The estimates of income for the current year are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Income, - - - - - | $1,550,050.00 |
| Expenditure, - - - - | $1,397,246.00 |
| Estimated amount of income over expenditure, | $152,804.00 |
| Add to this the balance in the treasury at the beginning of the year, - - - | 842,146.95 |
| Estimated surplus at the end of current year, | $994,950.95 |

The improved condition of all sources of taxation affords the hope that at an early day our revenues will be largely augmented.

### A SURVEY OF THE STATE.

An authentic and accurate map of the State is a need that ought to be supplied. It is a reproach to Connecticut, with its large school fund and its boasted common schools, that we do not know our own topography, and are not in possession of any means by which to learn it. It is probably a fact that there is in existence a better map of the surface of the moon than of the surface of Connecticut. We do not know the length of our own boundary lines except as we learn them from our neighbors. The only source we have from which to learn the topography of our State is the imperfect and unreliable maps of private publishers. One of the best of these omits entirely several important ranges of hills, makes an error of several miles in the location of one or two large towns, and even forgets that the city in which you are assembled is the sole capital of the State. In respect to an accurate survey we are behind most of the other States. We are behind the islands of the sea. The Sandwich Islands has a very accurate survey of its territory, which is used as the basis for the surveys of public and private lands. Such a survey could be made at a very moderate expense, and in view of the great advantages, public and private, that would be afforded, I urge that measures be taken to have one made.

### SAVINGS BANKS.

The savings banks of the State are in a much better condition than last year. The increase of deposits between Oct. 1, 1878, and Oct. 1, 1879, was $326,974.86; increase of interest and surplus for the same time, $11,067.70. Within the same period there was a decrease of other liabilities to the amount of $120,832.88; so that the entire improvement in the condition of these banks amounts to $457,875.44.

The Bank Commissioners report that this increase, gratifying as it is, by no means measures the whole improvement which they found to exist at their last examination. The bet-

ter feeling with officers and depositors, the confidence, the gratification at the revival of business, all indicated an increased interest in and good will to the savings banks. The Commissioners recommend the repeal of the law requiring one-half the amount of deposits to be invested in loans on real estate. They urge that in some parts of the State there is not now, nor is there likely to be in the near future, a call for money, either in city or country, sufficient to absorb so large a portion of the deposits; that by reason of this requirement many banks are compelled to limit the amount they will receive from depositors; and that there are many other classes of securities which are equally safe. They, however, add "that careful consideration should be given to proposed changes in laws relating to investments, that public confidence in the banks may not in any measure be weakened." In this advice I heartily unite.

I ask your careful attention to what they say respecting the bonds of Treasurers of Savings Banks and of Trust Companies.

I cannot forbear to call your attention to the manner in which the Commissioners speak of certain misconduct on the part of some officers of savings banks. I deem it worthy of praise. If all watchmen set to guard the public would speak out as plainly and as fearlessly as do these, there would be much less official misdoing and a great deal less occasion for public regret.

### STATE BOUNDARY LINE.

The boundary line between this State and the State of New York on our western and southern border has never been mutually agreed upon. This condition occasioned great uncertainty, frequent disputes, and much vexation to the citizens of both States living along these lines. This matter was brought to the attention of the Legislature in 1878, when an act was passed providing for the appointment, by the Governor, of commissioners authorized to meet like commissioners on the part of New York, who should be empowered to settle and agree upon the said boundary lines. No concurring legislation was had by the State of New York till March, 1879,

when the Secretary of State, the Attorney-General, and the State Engineer were created the Commissioners on the part of that State with powers precisely similar to the powers of the Commissioners of Connecticut. Upon receiving notice of such action, I appointed Hon. Origen S. Seymour, Hon. Lafayette S. Foster, and Hon. William T. Minor the commissioners on the part of this State.

The resolution under which these commissioners were appointed provides that they shall make their report to the General Assembly. I am informed that they are prepared so to report, and am also informed that the joint commission has unanimously agreed upon the entire boundary line between the two States, defining accurately the limits of this State upon the west and south.

I am not officially advised as to the details of the agreement, but know that the commissioners of both States have examined the matter in difference with great care and industry. The well known character of the commissioners for learning and integrity gives to their action the force of a judicial determination. It may, in some particulars, not be precisely as we would like, but I think the State is pledged to abide by the result. I recommend that the agreement be ratified by the General Assembly.

### OYSTER COMMISSION.

The immense tracts of valuable oyster ground on the southerly boundaries of the State, which are at present unused, and which it was believed could be so disposed of as to bring a large sum into the treasury of the State, induced the last Legislature to provide for a commission of three persons to prepare a plan for the gradual disposal of such grounds. Upon this commission I appointed Hon. Robert Coit of New London, Hon. Henry B. Graves of Litchfield, and Charles W. Bell, Esq., of Norwalk. They have attended to the duty with which they were charged, and will report to you the plan which they have agreed upon, and which, I have no doubt, will be acceptable to you, and of great value to the State.

STATE PRISON.

The whole number of persons confined at the State Prison on the 30th day of November last was 251. There had been received during the year 110, and discharged 137. The income from the Prison has been sufficient to pay for the board, clothing, and medical care of the prisoners, the salaries of all the officers, with the incidental expenses, and leave a balance of $692.19 to credit for the new year. There has been drawn from the State Treasury, on account of the Prison, the sum of $7,644.95, which has been expended for repairs, and for other purposes not mentioned above.

The new direction of the Prison, ordered by the last Legislature, went into operation on the first of April. These Directors have brought great intelligence to the discharge of their duty, have expended much time, and have displayed the utmost zeal and public spirit. After careful inquiry, they chose a warden, and changed many of the other officers. The new officers have faithfully seconded the efforts of the Directors. The result has been successful almost beyond expectation. Our Prison, save that it is an old-fashioned structure, built before any of the modern improvements in prison buildings came into use, might well be a model. In cleanliness, healthfulness, good order; in the intelligence, activity, judgment, and fidelity of all the officers; in the obedience, cheerfulness, industry, and discipline of the prisoners; and in that general feeling of satisfaction, security, and pride which comes from doing, and doing well the work which it is set to do, the State Prison of Connecticut is now surpassed by no institution of a similar kind in America.

For a few years past some classes of workingmen have contended that the system of contract labor in use at the State Prison unjustly affected them. They applied to the General Assembly of 1879 for some legislation. Such action was had that a commission consisting of not more than five persons was authorized to be appointed by the Governor, whose duty it should be to inquire into the feasibility of abolishing the system of contract labor carried on at the Prison, and to devise some plan for the employment of the prisoners other

than by contract; and to inquire further what kinds of employment could be sucessfully carried on in the Prison with the least conflict to established interests. On the commission I appointed Lucius P. Deming of New Haven, W. F. Wilcox of Chester, Edmund Tweedy of Danbury, Jeremiah Tierney of Norwalk, and Merrick A. Marcy of Union. Their report will be laid before you at an early day. This is an important matter, involving on the one hand the interests of many working men, and on the other possibly requiring an entire change in the management of the prisoners. I trust you will be able to devise some plan whereby the labor of the prisoners can be utilized in a remunerative way without unjustly bearing upon the labor of honest men.

A special law, passed in 1869, provides that the Governor, in certain cases, shall issue an order to take any person confined in the State Prison, who shall become insane, to the General Hospital at Middletown. During the last summer the warden of the Prison reported to me that two or three convicts were insane, and requested that measures be taken for their transfer to the Hospital. One of these was a man confined in the Prison for murder, and whose insanity impelled him to murder everybody else. The life of no person within his power was safe for an instant. At the Prison he could be so restrained that he could not take the life of any one. At the Hospital his presence would endanger the lives of many. Under these circumstances I deemed it my duty not to approve the report or to make the order for the transfer.

The Hospital is overcrowded, and is obliged to reject or postpone pending applications for admission of persons who are not criminal. Besides, it is a question of very grave doubt whether the criminal insane can safely or wisely be put into the same institution with the innocent. I recommend the repeal of this act, and that some special provision be made for insane convicts.

### THE INDIGENT INSANE.

The special report made to the last Legislature upon "the necessity for further accommodations for the insane poor of

this State" will come before you with the unfinished business of last year.

The Connecticut Hospital for the Insane at Middletown has, during the year, had a total number of 644 patients. On the 1st day of December there were 510. Of these only three were paying patients, and of these three two are themselves paupers whose expenses are paid by relatives living out of the State. The report above mentioned showed that there were in the State about 400 poor insane persons who were out of the Hospital who were in almshouses or supported elsewhere wholly or in part by towns, and recommended the erection at Middletown upon the farm owned by the State of a separate building, inexpensive in style and construction, where the quiet chronic patients could be cared for. I believe this is much the most economical method that can be adopted for the care of the large number of poor insane people now needing hospital treatment. I repeat that I do not see why the poor insane who are out of hospitals are not entitled to your attention as fully as those who are in. Nor do I see how you can be consistent if you refuse, at a moderate expense, to provide for the former while at a large outlay you have made provision for the latter. The fact that at all times for the past three years applicants at the hospital have been obliged to wait from two to three months until their turn could be reached, simply because at all times the hospital was dangerously over-crowded, makes it your duty to adopt, as speedily as possible, some reasonable plan of further provision for this dependent class.

### WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

In the communication I had the honor to make to the last General Assembly I recommended that the right of voting be extended to women, as far as it can be done by an act of the Legislature. I repeat the recommendation. It seems to me that logic and wisdom both dictate that women, especially property-holding and tax-paying women, should have this right. At the very least they ought to be allowed a voice in all places where taxes are laid, as in town, city, borough, and

school district meetings. Or if this is deemed too general, why not permit them to vote on some special matters, as the raising of a tax, for school committees, on the question of license or no license, or others of a similar nature?

The State of Massachusetts has recently passed a law permitting all women who possess the required qualifications of residence and education, and have paid a tax, "to vote at town and city meetings for members of school committees." Six other States have laws granting to women the right of suffrage wholly or limited. Any such enactment in this State, if it should work badly, might be repealed by a Legislature consisting only of men elected solely by male suffrage.

It has just been decided by a very significant majority in this State that voting is a great educator, and that it is worth while to incur an annual expense of a hundred thousand dollars that the men of the State may have an opportunity every year to take part in this great educational process. If this sort of education is so very valuable for men, does it not savor a good deal of narrowness—might I not say cowardice—not to permit women to share to some little extent in it?

### TAXATION OF PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

I call your attention again to the taxation of the separate property of married women. All such property held by any married woman by virtue of the acts passed in 1877 and in 1878, is as much out of the control of the husband as though no marriage existed. In such case to require the property to be set for taxation in the list of the husband, and make the tax thereon a debt against *him*, is a plain violation of the rights of married men. You ought to provide that all such property be set in a list against the married woman herself. An act making this provision has once or twice passed in one branch of the Assembly and has failed of becoming a law, mainly on the claim that it would add to the labors of assessors. There can be no doubt that assessors are a very useful class of public servants, but I can hardly believe it to be wise that an illogical, cumbersome, and inequitable statute shall remain in force simply to accommodate them.

DIVORCES.

The number of divorces granted in the State for the year ending Jan. 1, 1879, was 401. This is a less number than for several years preceding. Every person who is at all familiar with the business of our courts has observed that at least eight out of ten divorces are granted upon uncontested hearings. Many of these, it is believed, have been obtained by the parties colluding with one another. With a view to putting a stop to this vicious practice, I recommend that a law be passed requiring the State's Attorney in each county to defend against every uncontested petition for a divorce unless he shall be satisfied, upon an examination of the case, that it rests on just and legal grounds.

Whatever theory we may have as to the indissolubility of the marriage relation, we can all agree that the State has sufficient interest in its permanency not to permit married parties to be separated upon any sudden caprice, and much more, that they shall not secure a divorce by practising a deceit upon the courts.

CORPORATIONS.

The subject of corporations, especially joint stock corporations, and corporation laws, will be brought to your attention by the report of the Special Commission authorized by the Legislature of 1879 to revise these laws. Upon this Commission I appointed John S. Beach of New Haven, William C. Crump of New London, Samuel Fessenden of Stamford, Henry S. Barbour of Hartford, and Frederick C. Webster of Litchfield. These gentlemen have given the matter of corporation laws great attention and will report at an early day.

The subject of corporations and the laws under which they can be organized and by which they ought to be governed is of great importance, and, I have no doubt, will receive very careful attention at your hands.

It is a question worthy of serious inquiry by the people of this State whether the indefinite multiplying of corporations is not an evil rather than a good. The spirit of the law in Connecticut, as applied to property, favors the equality of property among all citizens, so far as the ordinary conditions

of mankind will permit. It does not favor the building up of large fortunes by individuals while the many remain poor. Indeed, vast and overshadowing fortunes, wielded by a single will, whether of a corporation or a natural person, are among the greatest dangers to which the happiness of the people in a republic can be exposed. Such fortunes create a sort of feudalism as oppressive and possibly more unrelenting than that of the Middle Ages—seeking to do now by the power of money what was then done by force. The theory of our law is that all men shall have an equal chance in earning, and equal security in enjoying what they earn.

Our statute forbids perpetuities; distributes the estate of a deceased person to all his children equally, and, with slight exceptions, subjects all his property to the payment of all his debts. Our law goes upon the theory that every man is liable to the fullest extent, for all his debts, and that at least once during each generation there will be an entire new division of property. These are cardinal principles. In other words, to use a highly technical form of expression, our law of property goes upon the theory of the limited *viability* and the unlimited *liability* of the property-holder. If these principles are observed, there will be no trouble, and any law for the creation of corporations ought to trench upon them as little as possible.

It may be true that, allowing the citizen to merge himself for the purposes of business into a corporation and thereby limit his individual responsibility for his business engagements, when coupled with the great advantage which the corporation has of being relieved from the human vicissitude of a limited life, has been promotive of enterprise, and has carried to a successful issue some undertakings that have conferred great advantage upon the State. But, unfortunately, in the history of legislation it has usually happened that when any special privileges have been granted by the State, those privileges have been stretched into abuses. It is as true now as it was in the days of Sir William Blackstone that "corporations being composed of individuals, subject to human frailties, are liable as well as private persons, to deviate

from the end of their institution." For examples of this I need only refer you to the special message of my predecessor upon the subject of joint stock laws, made to the Legislature in 1878, with the schedule appended thereto, only adding that an examination in the office of the Secretary shows that similar corporations are continually being formed.

Experience teaches that every combination of numbers, and much more of capital, unless carefully guarded, almost inevitably generates a disregard for the rights of others, for the simple reason that such combination increases intensity of action, separates in some degree the associated members from the rest of the community, and subjects them to separate rules of action.

In order to correct this tendency, it seems to me there ought to be some degree of personal liability on the stockholders, or at least upon those officers who have the management of the affairs of a corporation—those with whom the public come in contact—for all labor claims, for any omission of statute duty, and perhaps for other things; and that this liability should not be in the nature of a penalty but should be a joint and several liability as upon a contract.

You will fall far short of your duty if you do not put such fences and limitations into our corporation laws as will make it impossible for it ever again to be said (as it has been) that they are discordant and scandalously loose, and that under them had grown up corporations which were a gross fraud upon the law and a discredit to the State.

### THE NATIONAL GUARD.

The necessity for a thoroughly organized and equipped militia is beyond question. However well the peace and order of the State may be maintained in common times by the civil authorities, emergencies are inevitable with which military power alone can properly deal. The liberal policy which the State has pursued in its treatment of the National Guard, has been, in my opinion, a wise and judicious one. To it is due the fact that Connecticut stands easily first among the other States, not only in the equipment and organization of its forces,

but in the discipline and morale of the different corps which compose them. For the first time since the National Guard was re-organized in 1871, the maximum number of companies allowed by law has been reached, leaving no vacancies for new organizations. The November muster shows that it is composed of 183 commissioned officers, and 2,894 enlisted men, making a total of 3,077 officers and men. This is an increase over the previous year of 632. The colored battalion, authorized by an act of the last General Assembly, is now organized, and accounts for 274 of this increase.

Of the 3,077 men comprising the National Guard, 2,958 are fully uniformed, armed, and equipped. Of these, 2,775 enlisted men, including the colored battalion, have received entirely new uniforms during the year, under direction of the Uniform Board, at a cost per man of a little less than $25. The expenses of the National Guard, exclusive of uniforms, have been about $65,000. The commutation tax will amount to $94,166.

The Second and Fourth regiments, and the artillery under command of Brigadier-General S. R. Smith, were in camp at Niantic, in August, for six days, according to law, and showed a gratifying discipline, and creditable proficiency in drill. I am fully satisfied that the National Guard was never in better condition for active service than it is at present. I commend to your attention the full and detailed reports of the Adjutant-General, and of the Quartermaster-General.

### AGRICULTURE.

It is a matter of serious concern that year by year our agricultural population grows less and less. The valuation of our country towns constantly diminishes. The productive capacity of many of these towns is constantly becoming smaller. For the last half century, or something less—the tendency of population has been toward great centers. Business and the opportunities for great wealth go in the same direction, and year after year the brightest and best of our young men and women have gone out from their rural homes to swell the increasing number of some more favored locality. Many

have gone to the city. The farmers have in a great degree "gone west."

That so many young men from New England do go to the West for homes seems to me the result of misinformation or of wrong theories of life.

Why should any young man from these country towns of ours go to the Far West to live? In almost any of these towns there are good schools. Here are churches, and the social advantages which these give: post-offices and a frequent mail; all the conveniences afforded by having physicians, tradesmen, and mechanics within easy reach; indeed, all the good and convenient things which result from a long-established and a well-regulated social organization. Why leave all these? What compensating advantages are there in the West, especially to a man who wishes to have the comforts of a home, to rear and train up children to an honorable and useful citizenship? There can be none! Certainly none worthy of being named.

The reasons most often urged are the cheapness of land and the lightness of taxation. In these particulars I am quite confident that no material advantage can be gained at the West. The price of improved farms—that is, farms with buildings, fruit trees, fences, water, and the like—is as small right here in many parts of Connecticut as it is in the West. In respect to taxation, many places in the West are more heavily burdened than we are here. Take, for instance, the parts where the towns and counties have been bonded to build railroads, etc., etc.

If any man and his wife here in this State, starting life on a farm, will put forth the same degree of industry that would be required on a farm in any part of the West; if they will live with the same economy, will undergo the same fatigue and suffer the same self-denial, will wear no better dress, will indulge in no more amusement; in other words, if they will live here as they would be compelled to live there, they can certainly build up a fortune here much more readily than there.

The Board of Agriculture in this State is charged with the

general duty of promoting agricultural education and the general interests of husbandry; and the secretary of the board is directed to "inquire into the methods and wants of practical husbandry, to ascertain the adaptation of agricultural products to soil, climate, and markets, and of disseminating agricultural information."

Is it not within the duty of this Board to take pains to disseminate the information that farmers can live here in New England, here in Connecticut, better than anywhere else in the country; and then the further information which shall enable poor people of moderate means to follow the business of agriculture with reasonable profit?

It costs the State some $5,000 to $6,000 to sustain the Board (I include in this sum the amount appropriated for a state fair), and it is for the purpose of enabling more people to live in the State by agriculture and of enabling those who are here to live better.

In examining and reflecting upon the work this Board has done in previous years, it has seemed to me they have taken a course that is perhaps too high—that it is above the great mass of the people who ought to be benefited by their labors. We have had brilliant State fairs and learned discussions, and we have had reports published, in which there have been pictures of Mr. Somebody's handsome Berkshire pig or some other man's Jersey bull; but I confess that I do not see how a poor man on a rocky farm, with a big mortgage, gets very much good of it all.

I say this in no spirit of hostile criticism. The Board of Agriculture has done and is doing much useful work. The experiment station is valuable. The service of the Board in the prevention of contagious diseases among animals has been of vast advantage. The very great majority of farming people in our State are poor or are in moderate circumstances—they do not own their farms clear of indebtedness; and it is these people and such as these whom the State of Connecticut desires mainly to aid and encourage, through its Board of Agriculture. The State has no desire to take part in the sale of fancy animals at speculative prices. It *does* desire in every

suitable way to promote the true interests of the practical farmer.

Connecticut will make a new start in her career of honor and prosperity when a larger proportion of her enterprising young men stay at home, and with their intelligence and improved methods profitably cultivate the farms and develop local industries.

### THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

The common schools of the State are in a generally satisfactory condition. Their number at the close of the last school year was 1,638; the yearly average of school sessions was $178\frac{6}{10}$ days; the number of children between the ages of four and sixteen was 138,428; the number of children in the public schools was 119,382; the number of children in other than public schools was 11,212; the percentage of children in schools of all kinds was $94\frac{2}{10}$; the total of school revenue from the school fund, State, town, and district taxes, and other sources was $1,390,972.54; the total of expenditures was $1,375,881.01. The cost of new school buildings in 1878 was nearly $125,000. In 1879 it was only $37,000. The total reduction in the expenditures during the year was over $130,000.

The policy of free schools is now so thoroughly established in our State that I do not suppose any one will think of trying to disturb it. But as each year these large figures of expense come to us and we remember how burdensome is taxation, we are apt to ask ourselves what is the good of all this? What advantage does the State derive from all this expenditure? Might not the whole, or at any rate some part of it be omitted? These questions come to us all. May it not be worth while for a few moments to consider the other side? And in this I shall only go over facts which have often been published, and with which many of you are familiar. Lord Bacon has in gorgeous language forcibly illustrated that learned States have been usually prosperous States, and that an instructed people has been for the most part, a rich, laborious, energetic, and powerful people. It is not for us to indulge in his style of lofty grandeur. With us the question is

not one of sentiment. It is the sordid question of dollars and cents.

It needs no argument to us here in Connecticut, with our hard and rocky soil, our rough and inhospitable shore, and our forbidding sky, to convince us that we must depend upon our industries of the earth, or of the mechanic's arts. There is nothing for us but labor in some of its many forms—severe, never-ending labor—*labor omnia vincens.* Is there anything else for us? Is it not by this kind of labor alone that we can hope to prosper? Are we not almost compelled to say that it is by this labor alone that we are to exist? There can be but one answer. If then there is any way by which labor can be made more profitable, any way by which we can get more of it, or a better quality, any way by which labor can be made more useful to the citizen or to the State, is it not plainly our duty to use every endeavor to find it?

In one of the reports made to the Board of Education in Massachusetts some years ago, the Secretary—Mr. Horace Mann—showed by precise statistical details, collected from the superintendents of manufacturing establishments, "that throughout the whole range of mechanical industry the well-educated operative did more work, did it better, wasted less, used his allotted portion of machinery to more advantage and more profit, earned more money, commanded more confidence, rose faster, rose higher, from lower to the more advanced positions of the employment than did the uneducated operative." I am confident that every farmer who employs labor can testify to a similar rule among farm laborers. In the report made to the Board of Education in Connecticut, for the year 1870, the Secretary develops this line of thought to considerable extent. In the summing up he says: "It proves that education is economy, and that ignorance means waste; that the skilled workman so forecasts and plans his work that every blow tells, while he economizes both his strength and his stock; that even in the humblest labor he will do more work, in better style, with less damage to tools and machinery than the boor who can only use brute muscle."

This kind of evidence might be extended much further.

Does it not certainly show that the best instrumentality for guiding and helping labor and the laborer, and making it more profitable, is to give him the highest practicable degree of mental culture and useful knowledge? Is it not then obviously our duty as well as the best industrial policy to promote, diffuse, and perfect it?

Let me read you a brief extract from the most brilliant of New England orators.

"There is not an occupation of civilized life, from the making of laws, and poems, and histories, down to the opening of New Jersey oysters with a broken jack-knife that is not better done by a bright than a dull man, by a quick than a slow mind, by an instructed more than by a gross or simple man, by a prudent, thoughtful, and careful man than by a light and foolish one. Every one of these occupations—in other words, the universal labor of civilization—involves, demands, *is*, a mental effort putting forth a physical effort, and you do but go to the fountain head as you ought to do, when you seek by an improved culture and better knowledge, to give force and power to the imperial capacity behind, and to set a thoughtful and a prudent spirit to guide it.

"You say that you bestow a new power on man when you give him an improved machine. Do you not bestow a more available gift when you bestow on him an improvement of that mental and moral culture which makes, improves, and uses all machines? In the one case you give him a limited amount of coined money, in the other a mine of gold or silver.

"Such is the additional power you give to labor by improving the intellectual and prudential character which informs and guides it."

I wish to add also another quotation. "Remember that the learning of the few is despotism; the learning of the multitude is liberty; and that intelligent and principled liberty is fame, wisdom, and power."